

St. Louis Globe-Democrat

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An Editorial FOR HANOI? OR FOR AMERICA?

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch are unmistakably opposed philosophically, i.e. on matters of government, especially fiscal responsibility; on matters of welfare, particularly where immorality is involved, and on other notable issues. Many fine newspapers throughout the nation share the views of The Globe-Democrat.

The Globe-Democrat accepts the inevitability that reasonable persons, and thus, reasonable media organizations, will differ. Difference of opinion is indigenous to a rational world.

Thus, The Globe-Democrat has refrained, as a matter of policy, from commenting — favorably or unfavorably — on the conduct or opinions of other members of the media.

In Wednesday's issue, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch published a cheap shot, a biased and slanted item about The St. Louis Globe-Democrat. In its normally hypocritical manner, the Post-Dispatch presented material about The Globe-Democrat as a news story, when in fact it was an editorial in a boyeysman's

style. Had the Post-Dispatch had the character and professional integrity to publish its Federal Bureau of Investigation story as an editorial, The Globe-Democrat would have respected the paper's prerogative to

comment on it. We would not have commented on it.

The Post-Dispatch story said The Globe-Democrat in recent years had published news material about student dissidents, especially in St. Louis County at Lindbergh High School. The Post-Dispatch story said the student dissident stories were "planted" by the FBI and implied they were the result of "conspiratorial" ties between The Globe-Democrat and the FBI. The story blatantly implied a nefarious alliance between The Globe-Democrat and the FBI for unworthy purposes.

It is most certainly true that The Globe-Democrat has published news stories in the past about dissident student activities; in the St. Louis area, in the Midwest and throughout the United States and the world. To the best of my knowledge and recollection, these stories originated in the normal manner incident to any news story: from an interested reader who notified the city editor, a parent, a student, a witness or scores of other sources.

For the Post-Dispatch news story to state that the FBI arranged stories in The Globe-Democrat through contacts with the publisher of The Globe-Demo-

crat is a villainous lie typical of the depraved thinking of a Communist "Big Lie" technique — designed to undermine the fabric of a country. It is true that I personally knew J. Edgar Hoover, the long-time, respected director of the FBI, and enjoyed an hour or more visit with him in Washington only a few days before his death in May of 1972. It is a privilege to identify Clarence M. Kelley, present FBI director and former chief of police of Kansas City, as a friend. Neither Mr. Hoover nor Mr. Kelley at any time provided me any information

relative to any news stories, past or present. Mr. Hoover and Mr. Kelley have never at any time communicated news material to, or made any request of Martin L. Duggan, editor of the editorial page of The Globe-Democrat, or George A. Killenberg, managing editor of The Globe-Democrat.

We are at a loss to account for the FBI memoranda, unless the explanation is that some overzealous agent sought to advance himself by taking credit for what The Globe-Democrat produced in its normal pursuits.

In the normal course of community, social and business activities and news work, we have known a succession of FBI agents in charge in the St. Louis office. At no time has any of these men of impeccable character and ability ever "planted" a story in The Globe-Democrat by way of my office or that of Mr. Duggan's or Mr. Killenberg's. Quite the contrary, the St. Louis office of the FBI has consistently maintained a frequently frustrating reluctance to release news material to The Globe-Democrat.

The Post-Dispatch story, to the contrary, emits a barnyard stench which is a measure of a good deal of that paper's pretense at news coverage: Rot.

This is an appropriate occasion to offer a statement expounding on The Globe-Democrat's news and editorial policy, expressed daily in our masthead. The Globe-Democrat's purpose is to serve the interests of our community, state and nation. The Globe-Democrat's intention is to be supportive, generally, of community institutions. It is not, as it appears to be with the other daily in St. Louis, nitpickingly destructive, denigrating and demeaning by repeated irresponsibility and uninformed criticism. We believe in the United States of America.

We believe in the integrity and the future of the United States, including the integrity and objectives of the FBI. During the late 1960s and early 1970s

when universities were being bombed and burned, and in some cases innocent citizens murdered; when banks were being bombed and burned; when a hall in Congress was bombed; when peaceful, personal access to national political conventions was being denied to orderly Americans, The Globe-Democrat believed and still believes that it was the duty of the FBI to apprehend those threatening the internal security of the nation.

If The Globe-Democrat played a constructive role during this period, this newspaper is proud of its participation and contribution.

The Globe-Democrat cherishes its role as a supporter of the American system. The Globe-Democrat suggests that the frequently slanted news coverage in the Post-Dispatch, most especially its recent 10-part, Page One Dudman series paying tribute to North Vietnam's oppressive and dehumanizing leadership out of Hanoi, is a shameful disservice to St. Louis and America.

We prefer pro-Americanism.

G. DUNCAN BAUMAN
Publisher
St. Louis Globe-Democrat